



### **Steps:**

1. Complete Alternate Plan (AP) and Riparian Buffer Template
2. Complete Forest Practices Application (FPA)
3. Submit AP, Riparian Buffer Template and FPA to local region office
4. Meet on-site with Forest Practices (FP) Forester
5. FP Forester issues decision/conditions

### **Forms:**

- [Alternate Plan](#)
- [Fixed Width Riparian Buffer](#)
- [Forest Practices Application](#)

### **Other Links:**

- [WAC 222-12-040](#)
- [Forest Practice Board Manual \(Section 21\)](#)

## **Western Washington Fixed Width Riparian Buffers**

Many small forest landowners find the forest practices process to determine if their timber stands are eligible for riparian inner zone harvest to be complex and expensive to implement. The effect can often be a loss of timber income.

Using the fixed width buffer template offers small forest land owners a simplified “fixed width” riparian buffer option for western Washington Type S and F waters. The template establishes a fixed width riparian buffer equal, on average, to the buffer widths occurring when the model is applied to meet desired future conditions as provided in WAC 222-30-021. The template is part of [Section 21 of the Forest Practices Board Manual](#).

### **Process**

Landowners submit a [fixed width riparian buffer template form](#) which provides technical justification required by WAC 222-12-0401 (3) (b), (c), and (d), explains how this alternate plan enhances riparian function and provides details of the small forest landowner’s plan. The template must be included with the [forest practices application](#) (FPA).

Landowners planning to conduct a harvest within a riparian management zone adjacent to Type S Waters must consult with the city or county of jurisdiction to determine if the proposed activities comply with the local shoreline master plan. If a Substantial Development Permit is required, landowners must include a copy of the permit with the FPA.

As for any proposed alternate plan, an Interdisciplinary Team (IDT) may be used to review the proposed fixed width riparian buffer. However, following the provisions of the template, an IDT will only be necessary if site-specific issues arise.

### **Eligible Stands**

This template can be used for RMZs that are:

- Adjacent to Type S and F Waters as defined in WAC 222-16- 031; and
- Located in Western Washington.

## Riparian Buffer Prescription

This template establishes a fixed width, no harvest riparian buffer for Type S and F Waters. Use the following steps to determine the fixed width buffer for your stream:

1. Determine the outer edge of bankfull width (BFW) or the channel migration zone (CMZ), see Board Manual Section 2.
2. Determine the site class for the RMZ adjacent to the stream. To determine site class, download a Forest Practices Application/ Notification activity map for your area and activate the site class layer. Go to [http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/ForestPracticesApplications/Pages/fp\\_forms.aspx](http://www.dnr.wa.gov/BusinessPermits/Topics/ForestPracticesApplications/Pages/fp_forms.aspx) and under the heading, "Forest Practices Application/Notification", click on "Print an activity map." After navigating to the location of your activity, in the left corner under the "Select a map" button, choose Site Class Map. In the upper right corner, click on the "Legend" button to find the site class of your activity.
3. Determine the width of the fixed width riparian zone using Table 1.
4. Establish the buffer on the ground by measuring horizontally from the outer edge of BFW or the CMZ, whichever is greater.

**Table 1 - Fixed Width, No Harvest Buffer Widths by Site Class**

Site Class	No Harvest Zone Width
	(measured from the outer edge of BFW or CMZ)
I	145 feet
II	118 feet
III	101 feet
IV	82 feet
V	75 feet

Contact your region [Forest Practices Forester](#) for additional guidance.